

APRIL AND MAY SHOWERS BRING... SKYWARN TRAINING

Gary Skuse, KA1NJL – RARA Vice President

RARA is pleased to welcome back Jon Hitchcock from the NOAA National Weather Service. At our June RARA meeting Jon will provide Skywarn training for those who are interested in learning more about the weather or need a refresher from a prior training session. Personally I don't know anyone who isn't interested in the weather. My cat doesn't seem to care but she does not go outside like me and the rest of the family anyway.

The following is taken from a press release kindly provided by Jon. "The Buffalo office of the National Weather Service will be conducting a SKYWARN spotter training seminar in Henrietta, at the Henrietta Fire Company #1 – 3129 East Henrietta Rd, on Friday June 6 at 7:45PM. The training session is sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and will last about two hours. There is no cost for the training.

SKYWARN is a national effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies with an expanding network of trained volunteer weather spotters. SKYWARN spotters support their local community and government by providing reports of severe weather directly to the National Weather Service in Buffalo through amateur radio or by phone using the NWS spotter hotline. The services performed by SKYWARN spotters have saved many lives.



The National Weather Service has a number of devices for detecting severe thunderstorms. Included in these are Doppler radar, satellite, and lightning detection networks. However, the most important tool for observing thunderstorms is the trained eye of the storm spotter. By providing observations, SKYWARN spotters assist National Weather Service staff in their warning decisions and enable the National Weather Service to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property. Storm spotters are, and always will be, an indispensable part of the severe local storm warning program.

The basic training session provides a brief overview of the National Weather Service organization and our responsibilities, severe weather safety, and basic severe weather meteorology including how thunderstorms, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes form.

Anyone can become a severe weather spotter for the National Weather Service. SKYWARN training is free and open to the public. For further information, you can contact the National Weather Service at (716) 565-0204 ext. 223 or Dr. Gary Skuse at gary@skuse.com".

JUNE 2014
VOLUME 66, ISSUE 10

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PREZ SEZ

Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC – RARA President

CQ Field Day, CQ FD, this is.....YOU! It's summer, (well almost), it's June, and that means it is time for the ARRL's biggest event in the U.S and Canada: Field Day. So what is Field Day all about? Well, let me start by stating what the ARRL has to say: "Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN!" I couldn't have said it any better!

This year's Field Day is June 28-29th, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. It goes on all night, and believe me, there is a huge amount of activity on the bands throughout the night. Hams get involved with Field Day for a variety of reasons. For some, it is like a contest, and an all-out effort is made, especially by clubs, to make as many QSO's as possible and rack up the points. For others, it is an opportunity to test out their ability to operate under simulated emergency conditions, a station or stations must be set up, running on generators, batteries, solar power, etc. Antennas need to be raised in a certain period of time (no you can't put your antennas up the week before!). Once on the air, the challenges are many... extremely crowded frequencies with heavy QRM, summertime QRN, encounters with a hand full of 'rude' operators, frequency 'stealers', but a majority of very good operators step up to the challenge.

This is also a great opportunity to show ham radio in operation to the general public. Various aspects of emergency communication options can be demonstrated as well. Last year, I participated in a Field Day operation on the grounds of a Red Cross facility in Henrietta, NY. Many of the employees who worked there came outside to see what we were up to and what it was all about. For most, it was their first encounter with ham radio and its emergency communications capability as well. We operated voice, CW, and even some digital modes which caught the eye of those 'techies' that saw computers interfaced with ham radio equipment.

Another activity that takes place on Field Day is the GOTA station! What is GOTA you ask... well it's Get On The Air! This is an opportunity for new or those 'not yet hams' to actually get on the air and make some contacts, under the supervision of a licensed control operator. So, if you are a brand new Tech and want to get on the air, come to one or more of the local Field Day stations being operated throughout our area. Bring along family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors who might be potential, future ham radio operators, regardless of their age. We have had kids as young as 5 and big kids in their 70s make a contact or two on the GOTA station. Come on down!

I can't leave out one of the most important elements of Field Day.... Have FUN. It is a good time to interact with fellow hams and others who might stop by. It is also a picnic atmosphere, where food of every kind can be found. Food like hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, chicken wings, sandwiches, doughnuts, chips, etc. are always a hit on Field Day. One area club had homemade lasagna, meatballs, and Italian sausages! When you are not operating or logging, there is time to throw a Frisbee around, or grab a cat nap!

Save the weekend and make plans to operate this coming Field Day! It is a great experience, one that will challenge your operating skills and savvy, as well as jumping in for the first time. Remember to be safe when setting up, operating, and taking down your Field Day stations, and keep it fun!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 6TH - RARA General Meeting

7:00 PM at Henrietta Fire Co #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road

JUNE 11TH - RARA Board of Directors

5:30 PM RIT Engineering Hall, Room 2110

June 28 & 29th – Field Day

RARA 1931 – 2014

THE END OF AN ERA FOR AMATEUR RADIO IN ROCHESTER

I've been proud to be a member of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and serve on your Board of Directors for several years now. During that time, traditions such as "Old Timer's Night" have been preserved while new activities such as summer meetings and "The Thrill Before the Chill" have been added. RARA sponsored licensing classes have added new hams to our ranks in unprecedented numbers. So much so that we currently have over six hundred members in our club! Disappointingly however, one of the things that has not grown is the number of members involved in our club's leadership. If this does not change, RARA as we know it will cease to exist in September 2014.

For the past several months, articles have been published in this RARA Rag and announcements have been made at our monthly meetings requesting people to step-up and take lead roles for the Hamfest and for club leadership positions. As you have heard, several of our club officers have served out their terms and several members of our Board of Directors will be moving on. This leaves RARA with a huge gap to fill before the new club year begins in October. If people don't come forward right now to accept these leadership roles, there will be no September meeting. Nor will there be an October or November meeting. In short, if we do not have a new slate of officers and a Board of Directors by August 31, RARA will have to be dissolved.

If you have ever wanted the opportunity to be actively involved with one of the premier amateur radio clubs in the Northeast, now is that time. Please don't wait for "the other guy or gal" to do it. The Rochester Amateur Radio Association needs you right now to be on the team that will lead and guide RARA in the years to come. If you have any questions about what's involved or how to go about submitting your nomination for a leadership position please see one of the current Board of Directors or club Officers at the June meeting or send us an email. Our contact information is listed on the back of the Rag.

To recap, RARA ~~can not~~ **can not** function or operate without a leadership team. If the current Board of Directors does not receive nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer by June 30, the B.O.D. will regretfully begin the process of dissolving Rochester Amateur Radio Association. This action can be avoided only if several club members come forward and volunteer their time and talents to save our club.

It has been my sincere pleasure being part of this truly unique amateur radio organization both as a member and as a Director. Thank you RARA for the education, friendship, entertainment and experience. I will miss you.

Respectfully,
Ross Mazzola KC2LOC
2014 RARA Board of Directors

2014 RARA PUBLIC SERVICE

Joe Walker, KA8WJH

Public service season has begun and we've completed the first public service event. The first event was the Unity Health Half Marathon. The marathon's start/finish was at the Blue Cross Arena for the approximately 2500 runners. Amateur radio was used to monitor runners who may have had medical issues during the run. We also had Dave, K2DWA, running the 5K course and reporting any problem during his run. Fortunately there were no problems with runners on either course. We thank the following volunteers for their early morning support:



K2DWA	Dave	Avery
KO4DX	Neil	Gibson
WB2JOR	Lee	Morelli
KC2UES	Mark	Pedersen
KD2DWA	Harry	Ramos
N2UEE	Wynona	Walker
KA8WJH	Joe	Walker

This year RARA is supporting three new events intended to encourage new licensees and others who wish to participate in public service to volunteer. These events are small, requiring 10 or fewer volunteers and will allow the volunteers to experience public service without the pressure of some larger events!

Public service is excellent exposure of amateur radio to the public and is great for all amateurs to practice operating and preparing for an actual

emergency.

Here's the list of public service events that are well suited for newly licensed or anyone wishing to get involved with public service:

Public Service Events (Training)

Date	Event	Location	Volunteers Needed	Time
April 27	Unity Health Half Marathon	Rochester	6	Completed
May 24	Ultra Marathon Trials	Letchworth State Park	3	7am to 4 pm
July 19	Shoreline Multisport Festival	Hamlin Beach	5	7am to Noon

Public Service Events Open to All Amateurs

Date	Event	Location	Volunteers Needed	Time
June 8	Tour de Cure	Start/Finish at MCC	50	6:30am - 4pm
June 29	Genesee Valley Horse Trials	Geneseo	20	6:30am - 4pm
August 6 - 10	Walnut Hills Driving Competition	Pittsford	15 per day	Varies to 4pm
September 21	Rochester Marathon	Rochester	25	6:30am - 4pm
September 27	Barktoberfest	Fairport	10	7am - Noon
September 28	Lift Bridge Regatta	Fairport	15	6:30am - 4pm
October 18	ADA Step Out Walk	Rochester	10	7am - Noon
October 19	JOTA	Ovid, NY	10	All Day
October 30 & 31	Pumpkin Patrol	NYS Thruway	35	7pm - Midnight

If you have an interest and time, please consider volunteering and enjoying the day practicing our great hobby.

As an incentive to volunteer, RARA also offers reward points for volunteering. 5 points for a 1/2 day, 10 points for a full day and 15 points for leading an event. Points may be used to purchase RARA items, renew your membership or attend the annual RARA banquet. For details for each event and to register, visit the RARA website at:

http://www.rochesterham.org/public_service.htm

VE TEAM INPUT

Ken Hall, W2KRH

We had 21 candidates for our April session and 20 either upgraded or received new licenses: 10 Technician, 5 General and 5 Extra. We had another member of the Koelle family pass both the Tech and General. Betsy Tascione received her Extra before her husband. For those who may wonder why this advanced class call (KV4XK) was assigned to Mr. Spencer, the FCC ran out of 4 area Extra class calls.

Our next session will be on September 20th at RIT, full details to follow.

I wish my team members a wonderful summer and thank them for all their fine work.

Charles Alexander	KD2GHA	T	Eric Bohannon	KD2BMC	G
Bruce Begy	KD2GHB	T	Patrick Cosgrove	KD2GHE	G
Thomas Clegg	KD2GHC	T	Craig Koelle	KD2GHG	G
Kevin Cosgrove	KD2GHD	T	Steven Mellen	K2MLN	G
Robert Galory	KD2GHF	T	Gary Stratton	KC2YTD	G
Jon Hausler	WB2TLL	T	Knute Kenneth Carlson	KD2CJR	E
Sirrone Leak	KD2GHI	T	Steven Smith	KC2YTC	E
Thomas Llangdon	KD2GHH	T	Omar D Spencer	KV4XK	E
Francis Majeski	KD2GHJ	T	Betsy Tascione	KD2DYU	E
Chris Williamson	KD2GHK	T	Dirk Webster	KD2GCK	E



PEAK THE GRID

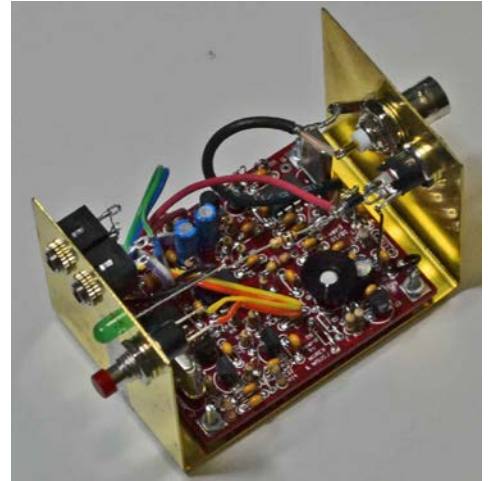
Forest Shick, WA2MZG

I just finished reading an article in the May 2014 issue of CQ magazine titled "It Doesn't Get Much Better Than That...". It related a story of building a QRP CW transceiver and making the first contact. Let me tell you my version of this story.

A few months ago I wrote an article about Made In America for the Rag. After thinking about this for a few weeks, I came to the conclusion that the best approach to make a shack – Made In America - was to build it yourself. How much more Made In America can it be than if YOU build the equipment. I then proceeded to search for kits to build.

The first kit that caught my attention was the RockMite[[for 40M. It was \$40. How can you go wrong at \$40? I ordered one and put it together. It worked the first time I powered it up. The power output was 0.4 watts. I did a test transmission and reception with my friend Jamie, KF2B. We coordinated the testing using our cell phones. HMM not even 2 meters?? Oh well, everything seemed to work fine. The big drawback to this kit is that it is crystal controlled transmit and receive.

The interesting part about this kit was it included everything you needed except a case. It had all the connectors, crystals for 2 frequencies, LED, pushbutton and a few extra components for options. The kit even had the necessary wire and a short piece of coax – for \$40. I bought a piece of brass at a hobby shop and bent it into a U shaped chassis for the kit. I have yet to try and make a CW contact – procrastination!



RockMite[[

By the way – a RockMite[[for 40M was raffled off at the May RARA meeting.



CYCLONE 40

Next I looked for something with a bit more flexibility. I found the CYCLONE 40. This kit was \$100. It had PTO (permeability tuned oscillator) control of the transmit and receive frequency. This kit provided everything including the case. I did have to supply 2 wires to connect the power connector to the circuit board.

This kit is very impressive because the case is made from 6 circuit boards. The sides lock together nicely with a small dab of solder and the circuit board with the electronics also mounts with small dabs of solder. The top and bottom are attached with screws and threaded standoffs. There sure are a lot of creative Hams out there!

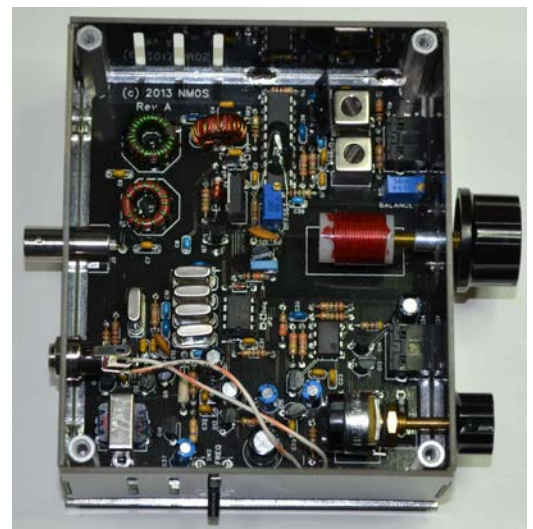
It turned out that this kit was a bit more difficult to get operating properly than the

RockMite[[. It had 3 toroids and the coil for the PTO to wind. The problem I was having was I could not get the PTO tuned to the correct frequency.

Lesson learned – Be Careful How You Count The Number Of Turns!!! I had 1 turn too many.

After correcting that situation, the transceiver tuned up nicely. I could tune from below 7.0MHz to above 7.12MHz. There is no frequency readout or calibrated dial. You determine the frequency by pressing a button and your operating frequency is announced in CW through the headphones. There is also a marker at 7.0Mhz so you have an easily detected starting point for tuning and staying in band.

It took me over a week to get this kit up and running, mostly due to my coil winding error. I finally got everything tuned up and aligned properly. The output power was 4.4 watts. On the afternoon of May 6 I connected the transceiver to my 40M antenna and started tuning around the band.



CYCLONE 40 Inside View

Now I have to admit my CW skills are very poor. I had not made a CW contact since the 1970's. I believe my last CW contact may have been when I went with the group from Harris to Lewes, Delaware for the VHF Contest – W2CNS.

I can hear many stations on the air. Even the W1AW practice runs. Finally I find a station that is transmitting slowly. I can copy about 50% of his transmission. He is calling CQ so I am able to get his call sign because it is repeated so many times. I get my nerve up and respond to his CQ. The QSO lasted about 10 minutes.

WOW – My first CW contact in 40 years. It Really Doesn't Get Much Better Than This!

It may not seem like a great contact to some, but it was a huge milestone for me. Raising my enthusiasm, providing encouragement, and just plain excitement to be able to do something that many, many people cannot do. Operate CW.

My next challenge – I have a 12 / 10 / 6M SSB/CW transceiver I have been building for over a year – maybe I can finish that and get it working. It was published in the August 2012 issue of QST.

QRP, CW, Kit Building

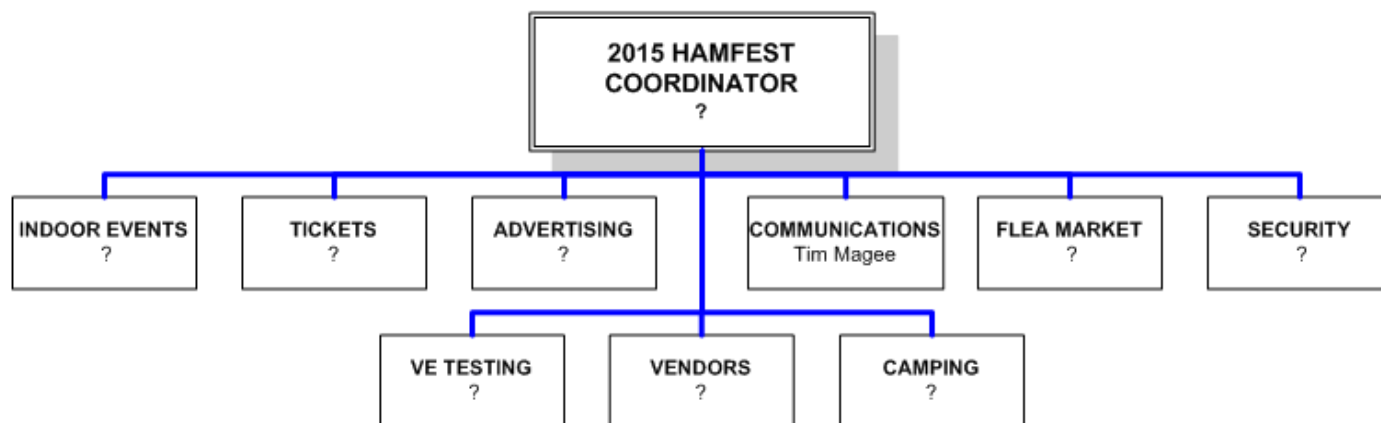
At the May RARA meeting I was speaking with Hal, AA2ID about QRP, CW, kit building and activity in this area – Monroe County. We thought it would be nice to hold an informal meeting at the RARA picnic with other interested Hams to discuss QRP, CW, kit building and other related topics that might promote more activity in these areas, in RARA and provide some expertise to others that are interested.

We hope that you will attend the picnic and look us up.

Feel free to email me at editor@rochesterham.org

RARA 2015 HAMFEST TEAM CAPTAINS

For a successful Hamfest in 2015 we need volunteers for all of these positions.



THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HAMFEST FLEAMARKET SELLING

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

My experience about ham flea markets - probably yours as well - is that people bring stuff to sell that they have really "loved" in their lives. Consequently, the items have a high emotional value. That's usually why people simply set the prices too high. (If the guy doesn't have a clue that he's asking waaay too much, just tell him. Who knows? You could change his world and yours.)

Maybe you will find out – not very often, though – that a buyer paid a king's ransom for something. You won't hear about these, because neither buyer nor the seller want you to know. Go figure. Why did the buyer pay that much anyway? Simply because he/she had already invested a lot of emotional capital in the item – or at least the mere image of it – and the desire was usually created during the teenage years, when the young-un couldn't afford anything. Lust was the only alternative back then.



What about return sellers who habitually set prices high, on everything? Well, pure and simple, they are speculators, sort of like professionals, and you see them at all the flea markets with really high prices. There's no harm in that. It makes for a true price war. How does it work for them? Most always, they are retired (who isn't going that direction these days?) and they have several logical reasons - social and financial - to go to many flea markets and find that "right" buyer who will pay the high price. Retired – gone pro.

Now what about you? Do you have anything to sell at your next fleamarket? (Possible translation: does your spouse have anything for YOU to sell from your stash at the next fleamarket?) Here's the deal: If you set your prices down to a level at which YOU would buy someone else's item, then you will sell a good deal of your gear.



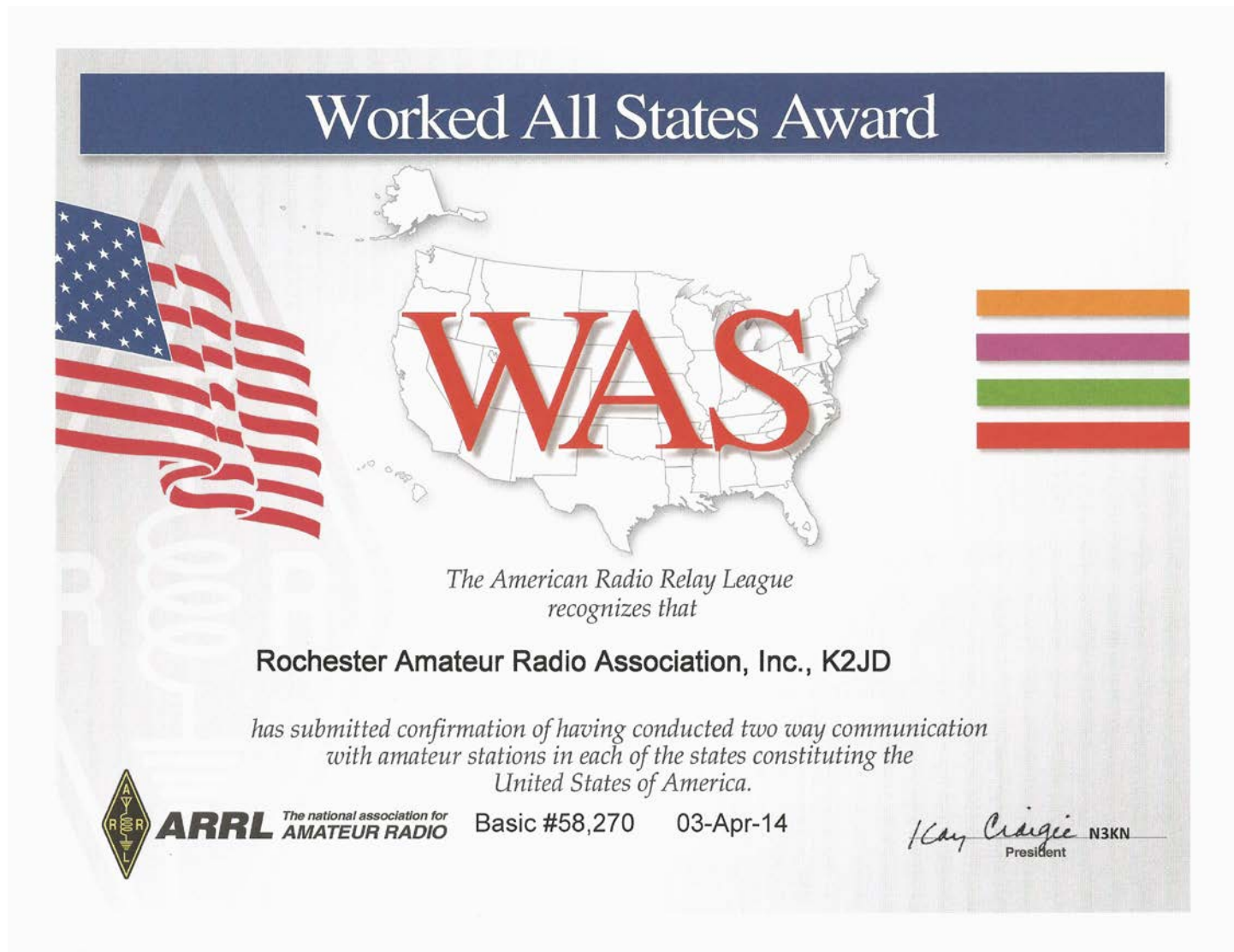
I once went to the Batavia hamfest with a sedan load of equipment I had fixed up - it was all operational. I pulled in late (9 a.m.) onto the grassy area, found a spot and began to spread out my tarp on the ground. (It was sprinkling.) I had already labeled the equipment, with a price tag on each item. Then I opened up the trunk. Immediately I had a swarm of people standing around. The ground was already a bit wet, so I started to set the gear on the trunk lid and proceeded to get the rest of the stuff from the back seat. I could hardly do that, because guys were handing me money for that item they had already tucked under their arm. You can imagine how I was just stuffing the money into my pockets - no organization whatsoever. I sold every last piece and walked away with over \$400. And this all happened within a time span of 20 minutes!

The trick was, more than anything else, that I decided in advance to lower the price by about 30% from what others would have asked. (I already knew approximately what the "going ask" was.) The secondary reason why I got it sold was, for sure, that all the equipment was clean looking and it all worked; I had either built it myself or had repaired it.

Postscript: Did I ever regret selling at that those low prices? Absolutely not. Did I get rid of something I later regretted? Yes, but just the small British 3-band regenerative receiver kit I had picked up in Scotland and found to be of high quality. Last question: Did I ever buy anything at a ham fleamarket, where the seller had made the same "lower-price" decision? Yes, several times: Batavia (Heathkit SB 303 receiver); Rochester Hamfest (TA33-Jr Tribander); Batavia (TenTec Triton IV transceiver); AWA Spring Meet (Hallicrafters S40A receiver); Elmira (Heathkit frequency counter); Drumlins (oscilloscope); RARA November Auction (TS520SE). And these were all way - way under Ebay prices. My Halli-S40A is now totally rebuilt and sports an outboard Heathkit Q-multiplier. It's a "hot job."

RARA AWARDED WAS

Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY



Nearly 100 hams over the course of 25 years were recognized at the May 2nd, 2014, RARA membership meeting as contributors to RARA's Worked All States award from the ARRL. AF2K, Irv Goodman spent many, many hours researching addresses and collecting QSL cards for both the WAS and DXCC, filling shoe-boxes of inbound direct and 'buro' cards. Some of the last needed state-slot verifications were recently filled-in via the Logbook of the World for RARA's contest call K2JD and the Memorial N2EH station. Contact Jim N2IXD to sign-up for using K2JD for contests and N2EH for casual operating for the club.

Congrats to all RARA members, past, current and future for their continuing 'radio-active' support!

RESCUE 21: THE NEXT GENERATION OF MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS

Randy Rezabek, K2REZ

Behind the scenes, the latest generation of maritime communications is operating in our area. The average boater won't notice it, but behind the scenes a state of the art radio/computer network is providing a capability, and margin of safety, never before available to the boating public.

The National Distress and Response System (NDRS), built in the 1970s, was the predecessor system for marine near-shore communications. These VHF-FM marine voice radios were located at each Coast Guard station and provided line-of-sight coverage to approximately 20 miles offshore. This system had a number of weaknesses. It utilized a variety of non-standard systems, it lacked multiple simultaneous monitoring, it lacked a standard Direction Finding capability, it contained numerous geographic coverage gaps, and lacked interoperability with other law enforcement systems.

Rescue 21 was designed in early 2000s as a replacement for NDRS. The Coast Guard had a need to provide continuous coverage of the entire US coasts. Their goal was to create a modern, radio system networked by a TCP/IP system. Digital communications allows the creation of a fully integrated Command, Control, Computing and Communications system (C4), enabling transmission of text and images, encrypted voice communications, automatic DF bearings, and automatic recording of transmissions. It also carries analog channels to allow for communications with the general boating public.

The system includes the capacity for using P25 digital technology and encryption capability in addition to the current Marine VHF frequencies. The system will also allow the simultaneous monitoring of multiple VHF channels, enhanced clarity, and support of Digital Selective Calling. The DSC system allows mobile radios to call specific marine radios utilizing a digital identity number via Channel 70, and more importantly, allows for an automatic "mayday" emergency button that will transmit the vessels identity and GPS to the R21 system. R21 continuously monitors for alarms transmitted on this system and will instantly alert the CG to the distress. All marine VHF-FM radios sold after June 1999 are required to be DSC enabled. As of March 2013, the R21 system had participated in responding to over 50,000 Search and Rescue cases.

The automatic Direction Finding capabilities generate a bearing for every radio call transmitted on channel 16, and the multiple overlapping towers provide for cross bearings to identify the location of the transmitter within 2 degrees of accuracy. The R21 computer display allows for a cross bearing to be marked and labeled if necessary. This DF capability is also valuable in detecting false mayday calls, saving the Coast Guard thousands of dollars of wasted fuel and manpower every year. The system also attaches an audio file of each call to each entry in the watch log, which plays a key role in zeroing in on the suspected hoax caller(s).

"Whenever we can identify a potential hoax call, we reduce or eliminate our rescue crews' exposure to the everyday risks of search and rescue and especially the increased risks of going out at night and in severe weather," said Eugene Lockhart, the deputy project manager for Rescue 21.

Designed and supported by [General Dynamics](#) C4 Systems out of [Scottsdale, Arizona](#), the backbone of the system is a series of towers built along the coastline designed to give continuous, overlapping coverage. These towers are networked together and are able to be reconfigured and controlled from a central site. Each Coast Guard station is now equipped with a computerized work station that presents visual display of the geographic area, detected bearings and cross bearings, and system status information. Each Station is still responsible for monitoring and responding to communications within its Area of Operations, but it is able to intercommunicate with all other stations and CG ships or aircraft within the area. A continuous watch is maintained on Channel 16 (The International hailing and distress channel) 24 hours a day, by these stations or the Sector command, which is also able to reconfigure the network as needed during emergencies.

Rescue 21 initially went active in December of 2005 along the Florida coast. The system continued to be built out, and in June 2012, it reached a milestone when it became fully operational along all the coastlines of the continental United States (CONUS), the Great Lakes, Hawaii, and the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. The system, currently active along approximately 42,000 miles of coastline, is now being extended to the Western Rivers and Alaska, with final completion scheduled for 2017.

Nine R21 towers are located on the Shores of Lake Ontario, from Lewiston to Massena, NY. Towers covering the Rochester area are located at Hamlin and Pultneyville. These towers resemble a typical commercial tower and include an array of eight VHF antennas that enable the direction finding capability.

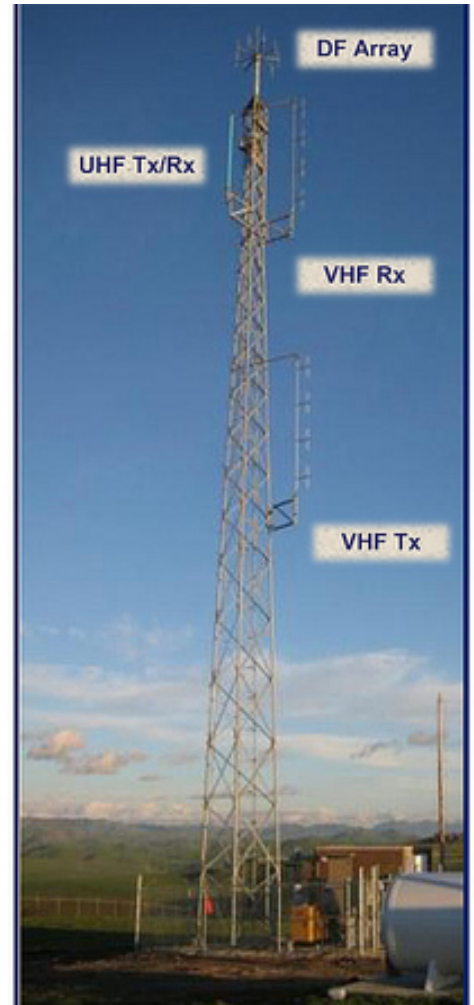
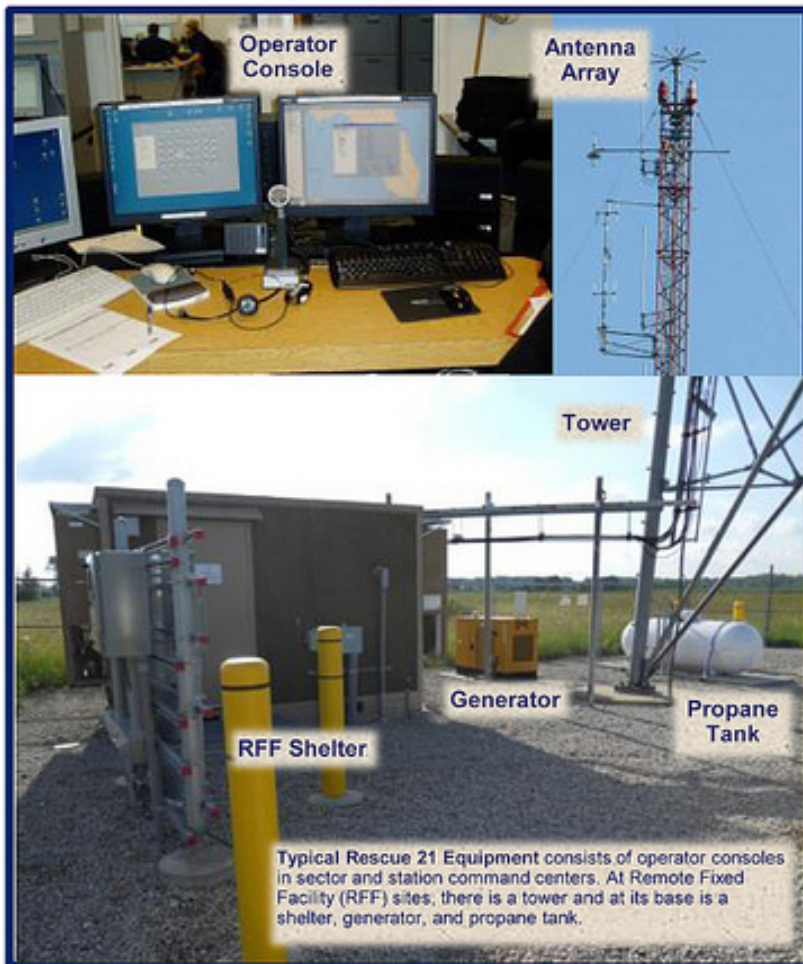
Rescue 21 equipment is of relatively very low power (e.g., <0.1% of the level of a typical television broadcast). Radio frequency exposure at the base of Rescue 21 towers does not exceed the Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) levels established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for uncontrolled exposure by the general population. Additionally, in order to further ensure public safety, Rescue 21 installations include locked perimeter security fencing, enclosing the communications tower and associated equipment. The Rescue 21 project has an excellent safety record, with over 100 tower sites in operation, including several located near residential areas, and there have been no injuries due to RF exposure.

For more information see:

<http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21/>

<http://www.gdc4s.com/markets/homeland-security.html>

Photos courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard



WEATHER RADIO

Jim Sutton, N2OPS

Available on most 2 meter rigs and all scanners, weather radio is a continuous transmission of current and forecast data. The only scanner signal intended for reception by the general public it is continuously there whenever it is needed. Just in time for the spring severe weather season we are beginning a series on weather radio.



LOCAL BEGINNING

Our local station KHA53 on 162.400 came on the air in January of 1976 from the tower of WHEC and WROC on Pinnacle Hill in Brighton. The transmitter later moved to Baker Hill in Perinton. This move caused signal loss for listeners to the southwest as well as other parts of the critical listening area. An attempt to correct this came with the installation of WNG359 162.525 in Spencerport.



Weather radio was originally available only to urban listeners. KEB98 in Buffalo at 162.550 was on the air for many years before any others in the area had the benefits of weather radio.

WHERE IT COMES IN

Now much, but not all, of our area enjoys weather radio service. Sadly weather radio stations are neither wisely nor fairly placed. A perfect example is my own Mount Morris. The signals from Rochester and Spencerport can barely be heard, but the signal from Call Hill to the south comes in loud and clear. Yet the Call Hill signal does not carry any forecast information for my area. Why you ask? Weather service forecast boundary lines do not include this area. Therefore do not assume the strongest weather radio signal will bring information for your location. Appealing to both the Binghamton and Buffalo Offices got me nowhere.

FREQUENCIES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
162.400	162.425	162.450	162.475	162.500	162.525	162.550
MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz	MHz

Most radios channelize by frequency. Some channelized by the order in which the frequencies came into existence. Originally

only on 162.550 162.400 was added, then 162.475 and finally it became 7 frequencies.

- 1 162.550
- 2 162.400
- 3 162.475
- 4 162.425
- 5 162.450
- 6 162.500
- 7 162.525

STATION ROSTER

Buffalo	North Boston	KEB98	162.550	600	Buffalo, NY
Rochester	Baker Hill	KHA53	162.400	500	Buffalo, NY
Spencerport	Spencerport	WNG539	162.525	300	Buffalo, NY
Cattaraugus	Little Valley	WWG32	162.425	100	Buffalo, NY

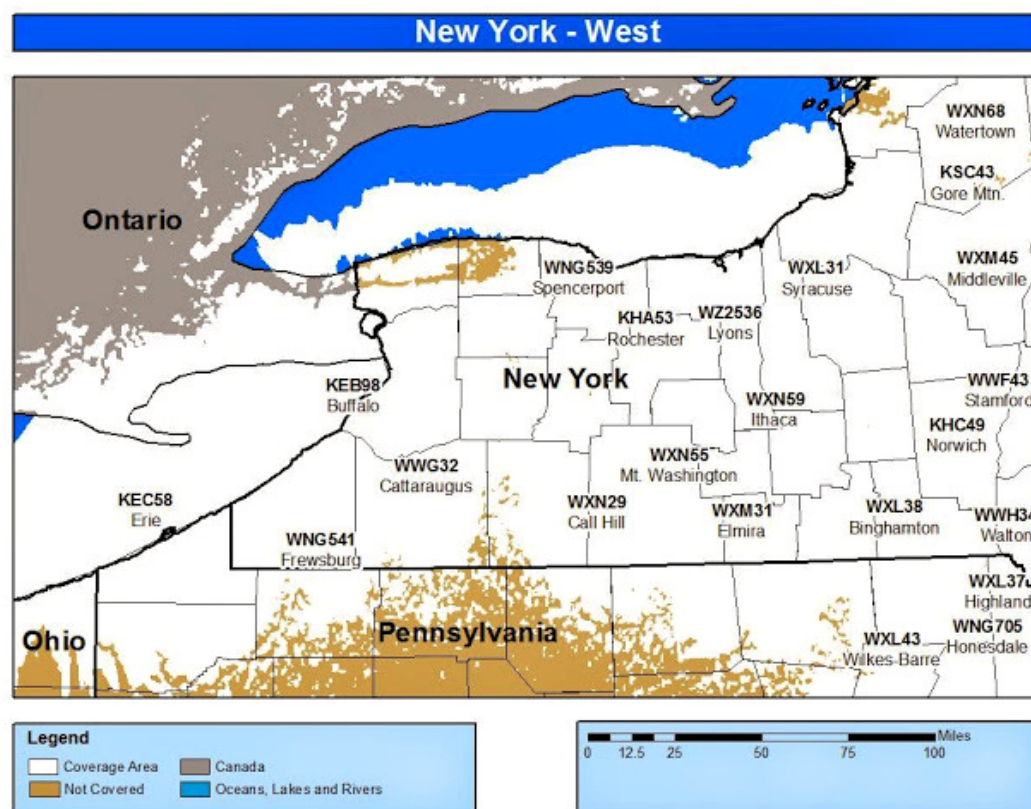
Syracuse	Makyes Rd.	WXL31	162.550	1000	Binghamton, NY
Binghamton	Binghamton	WXL38	162.475	1000	Binghamton, NY
Elmira	Hawley Hill	WXM31	162.400	1000	Binghamton, NY
Call Hill	Call Hill	WXN29	162.425	300	Binghamton, NY
Mt. Washington	Bath	WXN55	162.450	300	Binghamton, NY
Ithaca	Ithaca	WXN59	162.500	1000	Binghamton, NY
Watertown	Miser Hill	WXN68	162.475	100	Buffalo, NY
Lyons	Lyons	WZ2536	162.475	250	Buffalo, NY
Coudersport	Coudersport	WNG591	162.500	600	State College, PA
Towanda	Mt. Pisgah	WXM95	162.525	500	Binghamton, NY
Peterborough	Harwood	VEU671	162.550	100	
St Catherines	Thorold	VAD320	162.475	100	

NOAA Weather Radio

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

Environment Canada Weather Radio

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=8830FA44-1>



Coverage Maps

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/Maps/>

In future issues of The Rag we will look at SAME alerting, weather radio DX and use as a beacon, and different types of weather radios.

Until next time 73 to thee.

XEROX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SPRING FOX HUNT

Bob Karz, K2OID

The Xerox ARC held its 19th annual spring Fox Hunt Saturday, May 10 in near perfect weather. A problem quickly became apparent when a track meet at Webster's North Ponds Park completely filled the parking lot where the hunt was to begin. Thanks to the Xerox repeater, we were able to contact everyone and relocated to a nearby Wegmans, and the hunt started promptly at 9:30 as seven teams began their quest for the four foxes.

The foxes were designed and built by Ned Asam, (W2NED) and Vince Burolla (W2VAB) based on the Arduino controller platform. Three of the foxes run ½ watt while the fourth has a 7 watt power amplifier.

The first fox was located in the Four Mile Creek Preserve, a new park just east of the better known Webster Park. Sure enough, all teams went straight to Webster Park before realizing that the fox was not there. The second fox was located in the Gosnell Woods about 3 miles east of Fox 1. The third fox was located in Finn Park near the Route 104 expressway, and the last fox was in Sandbar Park, a little known park on Lake Rd. near the outlet to Irondequoit Bay.

Four teams found all the foxes, one team found 3 foxes and one team found 1 fox. Ned Asam (W2NED), Vince Burolla (W2VAB), and Gregory Asam took first place with a score of 48 points, edging out the second place team of Jon Dickason (N2JAC) and Rob Scott by a single point. The team of Fred Donahue (W3MUD), Rich Hull (K2RAH), Bill Kurrasch (K2WEK), and Paul Kurrasch took third place with 43 points.

After the hunt we all gathered at the Bay Side restaurant for lunch and to share our experiences. A good time was had by all.



Xerox Amateur Radio Club

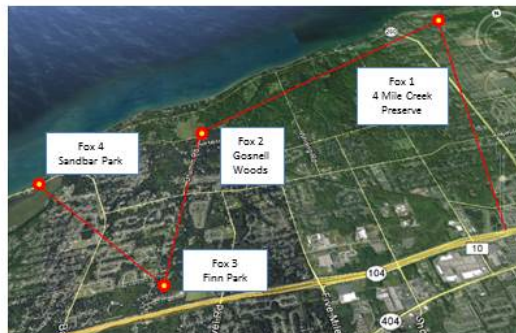
19th Annual Spring Fox Hunt

May 10, 2014



Awarded to: _____

Robert S. Karz, K2OID Hunt Master



Webster, NY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibilities	Term Length and Limit
President	• Preside over all meetings of RARA and the Board of Directors. • Appoint committees and sub-committees. ◦ Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. • Represent RARA in all official capacities. • Assure that all RARA by-laws are adhered to.	• One year term • Two consecutive terms
Vice President	• Organize programs for monthly RARA meetings. ◦ Identify, invite, and confirm speakers for the meetings. ◦ Invite Dick Goslee and Ed Gable to run the annual auction in November. • Assist at the annual auction by tracking items sold and prices paid. • Notify the Membership Secretary of membership points earned by members. • Write a monthly article for the RARA Rag describing that month's program. • Organize annual Winterfest.	• One year term • Three consecutive terms
Secretary	• Record all minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors. • Record minutes at the annual membership meeting in September. • Keep physical and electronic records of all meetings during their term. • Retrieve all mail on a bi-weekly basis from the RARA P.O. Box. • Monitor newspapers for recent announcements in obituaries for Silent Keys. • Supervise the annual election.	• One year term • Three consecutive terms
Treasurer	• Pay via check at monthly RARA meetings for costs incurred for that meeting, including costs for refreshments and raffle items. • Collect and count the refreshment collection, as well as raffle ticket sales at the monthly meeting. • Collect any membership dues payments and submit membership information to the Membership Secretary. • Present reports at monthly Board of Directors meeting from Citizens Bank account and Quick Books Pro account information. • Record all debits and credits executed every month. • File Postcard form 990 with the IRS. • Prepare 'straw man' financial outlook for the next Fiscal Year. • File all paperwork on all financial transactions for the fiscal year. • Present annual financial report to the membership at annual meeting.	• One year term • Three consecutive terms

RARA RAGS OF THE PAST

Ed Gable, K2MP – RARA Club Historian

20 YEARS AGO, JUNE, 1994

Once again Old Timer's night proved to be a most popular event and Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, was in exceptional form with his entertaining style combined with a huge amount of knowledge of local Amateur history. The much awaited announcement of RARA's June Picnic appeared and invited members and friends to be at Powder Mill Park on June 18th. Sadly, Irv Goodman, AF2K, announced that he would be stepping down as RARA's Membership Chairman after years of outstanding service. His last official announcement was that paid membership stood at 795. It was reported that your Board of Directors set the dues for the following year to remain at ten dollars. At the last Annual Meeting members elected the following Officers and Directors: President Roger Harnaart WB2BWQ, VP Chris Reich WB2DYJ, Secretary James Hood N2HHV, Treasurer Richard Goslee K2VCZ. To the Board of Directors: Lloyd Caves WB2EFU, Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP, Keith Freeberg N2BEL, Ed Holdsworth N2EH, Joe Hood, K2YA, George Muller WA2IEO and James Shipkowski, WB2WWV.

40 YEARS AGO, JUNE, 1974

The RARA RAG

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

VOL. 26

JUNE 1974

NO. 10

'74 Hamfest - Largest Ever!

Once again this annual story starts with the same statement as last year. Attendance at the 1974 WNY Hamfest and VHF Conference was higher than ever before. Total attendance was 2958.

Everyone was crossing their fingers and hoping that weather for the 1974 event would be pleasant. It was. Even though two days prior to the Hamfest, Rochester experienced more than 3 inches of rain during an overnight storm which caused flooding in some areas. The Fairgrounds area was spared.

There were many new and different things this year. Most noticeable was the outdoor flea market. The huge parking lot next to the Dome was filled at an early hour. The Dome itself was used for the first time. It provided plenty of space for exhibits, meeting rooms and the banquet.

American Radio Relay League officials in attendance were: President, Harry Dannals, W2TUK; Atlantic Division Director, Harry McConaghy, W3SW; Hudson Division Director, Stan Zak, K2SJO; Canadian Division Director, George Spencer, VE2MS; and QST Technical Editor, Lew McCoy, W1ICP.

Highlight of the evening banquet was presentation of the Amateur of the Year award to Clara Reger, W2RUF. Clara has been active in many League offices and nets for 40 years. She founded the New York State CW net; has received numerous merit citations; is in charge of the Buffalo Red Cross station; founded the Novice CW Net and has handled the New York State Code contest at the WNY Hamfest for nearly 20 years.

Also at the banquet, George Spencer, VE2MS, presented a Technical Merit Certificate to Larry Kayser, VE3QB. Larry is to be recipient of the 1973 ARRL Technical Merit Award to be formally presented at a meeting in Canada later this year.

Date for the 1975 Hamfest is confirmed. May 31 is the magic day. We will again use our new Hamfest home, the Dome Arena at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

RaRa Rag Takes Vacation

As is our usual policy, the RaRa Rag will not be published during the months of July and August. This is the last copy of the current season. The next edition will appear about Labor Day.

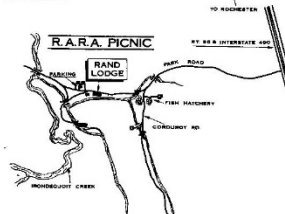


Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, applauds Clara Reger, W2RUF, named Amateur of the Year for 1974.

June 8th - Annual RaRa Picnic

by Joan K. Vogt, WA2YTK

Rand Lodge in Powder Mills Park will again be the site for the annual club picnic. Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, chairman of "Fun and Games", is preparing many activities for all. Joan will be assisted by Florence Kirkbright, WB2QXB; Onalee Gessin, xyl WA2ZNC; Claire Young, xyl WA2UGE; and Joyce Holdsworth, xyl WA2EKR. There will be guessing contests, games, candy, door prizes, scavenger hunt, and of course balloons. A new event this year will be RaRa's own mini golf tournament. This reporter felt that with the local big interest in golf this great sport should be incorporated at a small scale in our picnic. (Please bring your own clubs and golf balls.) Golf will start at 2:30 p.m. and the games will start at 3:00 p.m. (please have your children ready). Picnic supper will follow including hot, salads, potato chips, soft drinks, and ice cream. Chow call will be at 5:00 p.m. Don't miss this final RaRa social event - that's Saturday, June 8th - see you there!



"74 Hamfest - Largest Ever!" was this issue's headline and Hamfest news filled this issue cover to cover. With a total attendance of 2958, this was the largest Rochester Hamfest and VHF conference ever. In attendance was ARRL President Harry Dannals, W2TUK, Atlantic Division Director Harry McConaghy W3SW, QST Technical Editor Lew McCoy W1ICP and many others. The Amateur of the Year award went to Clara Reger W2RUF, recognizing her forty plus years of traffic handling and her founding of the New York State CW Net and for her administering the Code Contest at the Hamfest for some twenty years. Another first for this year was the new flea market on the paved lot next to the Dome Arena as well as the use of the Dome itself for the indoor exhibit area and spacious meeting rooms. Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, chairperson of the RARA Picnic planned a huge event this year requiring a staff of assistants including: Onalee Gessin, xyl of WA2ZNC, Florence Kirkbright WB2QXB, Claire Young, xyl of Bud Young WA2UGE and Joyce Holdsworth, xyl of Ed Holdsworth WA2EKR. Rochester's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) was pressed into service when Northside Hospital lost telephone service and their telephone controlled radio comms, due to flooding. Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, Emergency Coordinator, and his Assistant, George Negus, K2OIU, organized the radio communications backup. Soon on the scene was Gary Sienkiewicz, WB2WZG, who, for an hour, provided needed communications until telephone service was restored.

WORD SEARCH



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NOYCE
SHOCKLEY

The answer will be in the July, 2014 issue of the RAG.

NEWS FROM OTHER AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 7:00 PM.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

WEB: www.monroecountymcomm.org

NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through 2014.

Field Day: Monroe County ARES/RACES will operate W2EOC for June 28 -29 Field Day activities. Set-up begins at noon and on-the-air operating begins at 2:00 PM Saturday, June 28, for 24 straight hours of operating fun. Participation is open and welcome to all Ham Radio operators and anyone else who wants to find out what Ham Radio is all about. Come for an hour. Come for 24 hours.

2014 Field Day Location:

Monroe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
1190 Scottsville Road
Rochester, NY 14624

<http://www2.monroecounty.gov/safety-oep.php>

Last year we had three operating stations active throughout the weekend running voice, CW and digital modes. Bring your radio, antenna and comfortable operating chair for a casual Field Day event. New to Ham Radio? Bring a chair and we will get you on the air.

Keep up with the latest MCARES Field Day plans at:

<http://www.monroecountymcomm.org>

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>



ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION, RRRA

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRA, invites you to attend its June meeting. The date is June 20 and the place is the Pittsford Town Hall basement starting at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served.

The meeting will be the ATV presentation and demonstration originally scheduled for April. RRRA also plans to hold its annual Board elections at the June meeting. Due to Good Friday we had to cancel the April ATV meeting and couldn't get another date in April. George N2UIO and Bob N2HJD plan to present and demonstrate ATV. Both George and Bob hope to have an ATV repeater up and running at George's location some time this year.

SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. If we have VE testing we meet at 7:30PM with VE testing starting at 6:30PM.

The June meeting will be on June 11th at 7:00PM.

GENESEE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSN.

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Our meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. Doors open at 7:00pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Wayne County EOC, 7376 Route 31, Lyons. VE sessions held before the meeting on even months. Talk-in before meeting on 146.685-.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

The Rochester VHF Group sponsors an informal On-Air Net on 144.260 USB every Monday Night at 2100 local, and a 6 Meter Net on Thursdays at 2100 local on 50.200 USB.

More information can be found by visiting www.rvhfg.org or just calling in any Monday or Thursday night. Give it a try!

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

VISIT THE RARA WEBSITE!

Did you know that your club's website (www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?

- Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- Rochester Hamfest information!
- Online membership & renewal
- Track and redeem your Reward Points
- Public service info & sign-up
- VE testing info
- Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- Officer contact
- List of past presidents
- Online membership directory
- Order RARA logo products
- Useful Internet links
- Ham Radio 101 – tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



RARA MARKETPLACE

Your commercial ad could be here! The RARA Rag can help spread the word on your business at very reasonable rates. Contact us for details at editor@rochesterham.org.

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OFFICERS

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Treasurer: Ken Hall, W2KRH	(585) 289-3801	ken@w2krh.com

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Webmaster	Frank Schramm, WB2PYD	wb2pyd@arrl.net

JULY RAG DEADLINE JUNE 15, 2014



**RARA meets at 7PM on the
first Friday of each month;
come join us at:**

Henrietta Fire Co. #1
3129 East Henrietta Road
Henrietta, NY 14467

Get Directions

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Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

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THE RARA RAG

Published by

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY, 14692-8333
Hotline – (585) 210- 8910

Website – <http://www.rochesterham.org>